

CARDIFF CITY 1 WYCOMBE WANDERERS 0

CARDIFF CITY SQUEEZED through to the third round of the F.A. Cup against gallant non-League Wycombe Wanderers at Ninian Park—and it was that man Tony Evans again who got the lone winner—his 11th goal in 14 games. City dominated for long periods but they had several scares as Wycombe came fighting back.

City gave their new pre-match wave from the centre circle to the crowd boosted to around the 10,000 mark by a contingent of about 1,000 Wycombe fans crammed noiseily into the enclosure.

Brian Lee, manager of the reigning Birmingham Isthmian League champions, had predicted that his side would play attacking football and not be content with trying to force a replay on their notoriously sloping Leakes Park ground.

The Buckinghamshire side kept to their word by going in City from the kick-off.

They did the lion's share

GOAL CHART
CARDIFF CITY
Evans 43min.

MAN OF MATCH



ADRIAN ALSTON

KARL WOODWARD REPORTS

of the attacking in the first 15 minutes, aided by poor defensive distribution from City, and only the unfriendly woodwork denied them a 10th-minute lead.

Wanderers' skipper Keith Mead made two timely headed clearances in the first few minutes, one from a Mike England free-kick and the other from an Adrian Alston header.

A flick-on header at the near post by Tony Evans from a sixth-minute Phil Dwyer centre posed no problems for Wanderers' keeper John Maskell.

Then Willi Anderson struck his cross hopelessly wide a minute later, after Alston and Livermore had combined to put him in the clear.

But City gifted Wycombe with too much possession with faulty passes, notably Albert Horne, and as Freddy Holifield, a replacement at left back for the injured Clive Charles.

The visitors showed a willingness to push forward from midfield in support of their three front men, and carved two chances within 60 seconds.

The first came after nine minutes from a clever throw-in ruse. John Delaney dummyed the throw from Kennedy for Geoff Anthony to gain possession well inside City's penalty area.

The Swansea-born raider—

TEAMS

Cardiff City: Irwin; Dwyer, Pethard; Reece, England, Larmour; Buchanan, Livermore, Evans, Alston, Anderson, Sub: Giles.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Birdseye, Bullock, Mead, Delaney, Reardon, Anthony, Kennedy, Evans, Holifield, Horne, Sub: Alexander.

Referee: Mr. Leslie Shapler (Paignton).

City v Wycombe

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ing at Millwall last week was generally marked by two opponents.

In the 35th minute he was only inches outside the penalty area when he was sandwiched by Birdseye and Delaney as he tried to squeeze past them both.

The free kick came to nothing, and Anderson began to run to the opposite flank to escape the close attentions.

Reece tried to prize openings with several determined runs on the right. Evans chested down one cross, but was dispossessed before he could get in his shot.

Wycombe ended pressure with a counter-attack that almost earned them a 40th-minute lead. Terry Reardon striking a curving drive from 25 yards that Irwin, at full stretch, finger-tipped for a corner.

But City took the lead two minutes before the end of a very evenly matched first half. The creator was Anderson, who was pushing once again to the right, and the scorer was TONY EVANS.

Anderson linked with Dwyer on a throw-in, cut inside full back Bullock to Wycombe struck a post. Llanelli's effort, met squarely with his head

up an accurate through ball some eight yards out.

Maskell did well to parry Dwyer's effort, but Evans followed through, stabbed home smacking the base of an up-the-round and continue his right before cannoneering a remarkable sequence of 11 shots.

City ward off gains over goals in the last 14 games.

good enough to eliminate Wycombe Wands 0.

League clubs: Newport

and Bournemouth in Wycombe, justifiably the last two F.A. Cup semi-finalists, responded to the down, launched a series of

let-off with a right flank left flank attacks to force

four corners within the first

Evans linked with Gil Reece, four minutes of the restart

but the return cross by the Dead ball expert Horne, mid-fielder eluded Evans to turn and Irwin had

the near post. And Alston, difficult saving the third. He moving in behind him, just managed to push the

switched to turn the ball cross over his bar,

well wide of goal.

Three forwards lined up on

from Reece, this time a high flag kicks, but the pres-

one, was turned over the bar

sure was relieved when

by Maskell under pressure

Irwin was impeded as he

gathered the fourth inswing-

ing corner.

City opened up Wycombe's

defence again minutes later,

Alston drifted wider to find

Livermore slipping through

more room, and twice earned

applause for dazzling close

control that carried him past

three defenders. On the

second occasion, he reached

the by-line to cut back a low

cross intended for co-striker

Evans, but it was intercepted

by Delaney.

Alston roamed to the left

27 years ago, paid no respect

to figure in a promising

to City's impressive run of

four wins and their attacks

culminated by Buchanan scoop-

were constructed with no

small measure of skill and Irwin had a hopeful 25

yard ground shot, from a well

red world, from the top, but it

field, offered a half chance was City who began to pen-

to Horne when Irwin trudged

to gather Hollifield's defence,

cross.

But Horne, searching for his 516th goal in a

14-year-career with Wycombe,

fired hopelessly wide as

England moved to cover.

From Wycombe's next attack, Irwin was at full stretch to punch clear a cross flight

from Evans, and Anderson

from Evans' danger man

Wycombe's manager kis-

the winger's sparkling show-

hastily conceded a corner as

Evans looked for the

rebound.

Searching passes from

Wycombe link man Reardon

failed to break down a much

tighter City rearguard. After

67 minutes Wanderers intro-

duced substitute David Alex-

ander for the 34-year-old

Horne.

City began to take com-

mand in midfield and pro-

duced some attractive play to

warm the fans on a bitter

afternoon. Some of the flicks

and back heels notably by

Reece, Evans and Alston,

who played with cheeky con-

fidence.

Alston was inches too high

with a spectacular overhead

kick, Dwyer saw his near-

post header deflected for a

corner, and Anderson lifted

a rising shot from the top.

Alston appealed unsucces-

sfully when he seemed to be

fouled as he slipped past

Delaney, but in the 75th

minute the Australian inter-

national hustled through to

aim a stunning left footer

that Maskell failed to hold.

Birdseye scrambled clear.

Anderson wasted a golden

opportunity to put the match

beyond Wycombe's reach in

the 75th minute. He picked

up an intended back pass by

Mead but chipped his goal

effort straight at the keeper.

Irving's courageous save

denied the visitors an equal-

iser three minutes later. Welshman Anthony ran into space for a pass by Alexander but Irwin saw the danger and left his line to smother at the substitute's feet.

Wanderers continued to push forward for the goal to force a Wednesday replay and Kennedy's cross shot glanced off a City defender for a corner. Horseman was not there to take it and City cleared.

The spirited late rally failed to bring Wycombe any reward, and it was Livermore, blocking an intended clearance, who almost doubled City's score in the 83rd minute, the ball ballooning off him on to the roof of the Wycombe net.

Attendance: 11,607